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Agenda item 28 (a)
Advancement of women

Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: revised draft resolution

Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007, 63/155 of 18 December 2008, 64/137 of 18 December 2009 and 65/187 of 21 December 2010, and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[5] and other international human rights instruments and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[5] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

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Recalling the rules of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949[6] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,[7]

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[8] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[9] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[10] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[11] and the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2010 of the Economic and Social Council,[12]

Reaffirming also the declarations adopted at the forty-ninth[13] and fifty-fourth[14] sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, and welcoming in that regard that the priority theme of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission will be "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls",[15]

Reaffirming further the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[16] at the 2005 World Summit[17] and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[18] and noting the attention paid to the elimination of all forms of violence against indigenous women in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007,

Recalling the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[19] as well as the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture,

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[6] Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[7] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[8] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[9] See resolution 48/104.

[10] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[11] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[12] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/65/3/Rev.1), chap. III.F.

[13] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

[14] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

[15] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15, para. 2 (d).

[16] See resolution 55/2.

[17] See resolution 60/1.

[18] See resolution 65/1.

[19] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010 on women and peace and security and all relevant Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, including resolutions 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 and 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolutions 17/11 of 17 June 2011 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: ensuring due diligence in protection,[20] 20/6 of 5 July 2012 on the elimination of discrimination against women[21] and 20/12 of 5 July 2012 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: remedies for women who have been subjected to violence,[21]

Recalling the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,[22] including the responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights, bearing in mind the different risks that may be faced by women and men,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and its role in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and the high number of activities undertaken by the United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights aspects of the victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,

Deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world and to re-emphasize that violence against women and girls is unacceptable,

Recognizing that violence against women and girls is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

Recognizing also that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of education and sustainable development, can place them at increased

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[20] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. III, sect. A.

[21] Ibid., *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/67/53 and Corr.1), chap. IV, sect. A.

[22] A/HRC/17/31, annex.

risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging the need to address violence against women and girls holistically, including through the recognition of linkages between violence against women and girls and other issues, such as HIV/AIDS, poverty eradication, food security, peace and security, humanitarian assistance, education, health and crime prevention,

Acknowledging also that trafficking in persons is one of the forms of transnational organized crime which exposes women to violence and that concerted efforts are needed to combat it, and in this regard stressing that full and effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, will contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts and the high number of activities undertaken by States to eliminate all forms of violence against women that have resulted in the strengthening of legislation and the criminal justice system, such as adopting national action plans, strategies and national coordination mechanisms, implementing preventive and protective measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building, providing support and services for women facing or subjected to violence and improving data collection and analysis,

Emphasizing that States should continue to adopt legislation, in accordance with their international human rights obligations and commitments, which addresses the issue of violence against women in a comprehensive manner by not only criminalizing violence against women and girls and providing for punishment of the perpetrators, but also including protection and preventive measures, with provisions for adequate funding for their implementation,

Recognizing that domestic violence remains widespread and affects women of all social strata across the world and the need to eliminate such violence,

Recognizing also the important role of the family in combating violence against women and girls and the need to support its capacity to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Recognizing further the important role of the community, in particular men and boys, as well as civil society, in particular women's and youth organizations, in the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

1. *Stresses* that "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;

2. *Recognizes* that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men;

3. *Recognizes also* that violence against women and girls persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development, peace and the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General[23] on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, as well as the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences on violence against women with disabilities;[24]

5. *Also welcomes* the efforts and contributions at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress achieved in the Secretary-General's 2008-2015 campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the regional components of the campaign, and stresses the need to accelerate the implementation of concrete follow-up activities by the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women;

7. *Welcomes* the contributions already made by States, the private sector and other donors to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to End Violence against Women, while stressing the importance of further funding in order to meet the annual target of 100 million United States dollars by 2015;

8. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women and girls, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, including business enterprises, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

9. *Recognizes* that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and stresses that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

10. *Stresses* that it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;[9]

11. *Also stresses* that States have the obligation, at all levels, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and eliminate impunity and

[23] A/67/220.
[24] A/67/227.

should ensure protection, including adequate enforcement by police and the judiciary of civil remedies, orders of protection and criminal sanctions, and provision of shelters, psychosocial services, counselling and other types of support services, in order to avoid revictimization, and that to do so contributes to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women subjected to violence;

12. *Reaffirms* that the persistence of armed conflicts in various parts of the world is a major impediment to the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and, bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality, affecting women and men in nearly every region, calls upon all States and the international community to place particular focus on the plight, and give priority attention and increased assistance to relieving the suffering, of women and girls living in such situations and to ensure that, where violence is committed against them, all perpetrators of such violence are duly investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, while stressing the need to respect international humanitarian law and human rights law;

13. *Stresses* the need for the exclusion of killing and maiming of women and girls, as prohibited under international law, and crimes of sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes and to address such acts during all stages of the armed-conflict and post-conflict resolution process, while ensuring the full and effective participation of women in such processes;

14. *Also stresses* that, despite important steps taken by many countries around the world, States should continue to focus on the prevention of violence against women as well as on their protection and the provision of services, in order to complement more effectively the improved legal and policy frameworks, and should therefore monitor and rigorously evaluate the implementation of available programmes, policies and laws and improve, where possible, their impact and effectiveness;

15. *Further stresses* that States should take measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, protecting and assisting the victims and investigating and punishing acts of violence receive ongoing and adequate training and access to information to sensitize them to the different and specific needs of women and girls, in particular those who have been subjected to violence, so that women and girls are not revictimized when seeking justice and redress;

16. *Stresses* that States should take all possible measures to empower and protect women against all forms of violence, to inform them of their human rights, including by disseminating information on the assistance available to women and families who have experienced violence and ensuring that timely and appropriate information is available to all women who have been subjected to violence, including at all stages levels of the justice system, and to inform everyone of women's rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights;

17. *Calls upon* States, with the support of United Nations entities, to fully engage men and boys, as well as families and communities, as agents of change in

preventing and condemning violence against women and girls and to develop appropriate policies to promote the responsibility of men and boys in eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls;

18. *Urges* States to continue to develop their national strategies, translating them into concrete programmes and actions and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and by increasing the focus on prevention, protection and accountability in laws, policies and programmes and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation, so as to ensure the optimal use of available instruments, by, for example:

(a) Establishing, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and at all relevant levels, a comprehensive integrated national plan dedicated to combating violence against women and girls in all its aspects, which includes data collection and analysis, and prevention and protection measures, as well as national information campaigns, using resources to eliminate in the media gender stereotypes that lead to violence against women and girls;

(b) Reviewing and, where appropriate, revising, amending or abolishing all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and ensuring that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

(c) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women and the reasons for low reporting, reinforcing, where necessary, criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women and, where necessary, incorporating into law measures aimed at preventing, protecting and providing access to redress for women facing or subjected to violence;

(d) Promoting awareness among all stakeholders of the need to combat violence against women, and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, inter alia, through regular and repeated use and funding of awareness-raising campaigns nationwide and other ways to promote prevention and protection, such as international, regional and national conferences, seminars, training, publications, brochures, websites, audiovisual material, social media, television and radio spots, and debates, as appropriate;

(e) Encouraging the media to examine the impact of gender role stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements which foster gender-based violence and inequalities;

(f) Ensuring that there is sufficient knowledge, including expertise in effective legal approaches to eliminating violence against women and girls, awareness and coordination in the legal system and, to that end, where appropriate, appointing a focal point in the legal system for cases of violence against women and girls;

(g) Also ensuring the systematic collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data to monitor all forms of violence against women, including on the effectiveness of preventive and protective measures, with the involvement of national statistical

offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, in order to review and implement effectively laws, policies, strategies and preventive and protective measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims;

(h) Establishing appropriate national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national measures, including national action plans, taken to eliminate violence against women, including through the use of national indicators;

(i) Providing adequate financial support for the implementation of national strategies and action plans to end violence against women and girls and other relevant activities;

(j) Allocating adequate resources to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality and to prevent and redress all forms and manifestations of violence against women;

(k) Adopting all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, from the entry levels of the education system, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, in order to promote the development of respectful relations and to eliminate prejudices, harmful customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women, and by raising awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women and girls at all levels, including through schools, teachers, parents, religious leaders, youth organizations and teaching materials sensitized on gender equality and human rights;

(l) Improving the safety of girls at and on the way to school, including by improving infrastructure such as transportation, providing separate and adequate sanitation facilities, improved lighting, playgrounds and safe environments, conducting violence prevention activities in schools and communities and establishing and enforcing penalties for violence against girls;

(m) Developing gender-sensitive curricula for educational programmes at all levels and taking concrete measures to ensure that educational materials portray women and men, youth, girls and boys in positive and non-stereotypical roles;

(n) Promoting preventive measures at an early stage with families and children exposed to or at risk of violence, such as parenting education programmes, to reduce the risk of possible perpetration of violence or revictimization in later childhood and adulthood;

(o) Ensuring that the appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures are in place to protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse;

(p) Ensuring also that the appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures are in place to eliminate the occurrence of child and forced marriages and to provide information regarding the harm associated with these marriages;

(q) Empowering women, in particular women living in poverty, by, inter alia, strengthening their economic autonomy and by ensuring their full participation in

society and in decision-making processes, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and to affordable and adequate public and social services, as well as equal access to financial resources and employment, and full and equal rights to own and have access to land and other property, and taking further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to violence;

(r) Treating all forms of violence against women and girls as a criminal offence, punishable by law, contributing, inter alia, to the prevention and non-recurrence of such crimes, and ensuring penalties commensurate with the severity of the crimes and sanctions in domestic legislation to punish, and redress, as appropriate, the wrongs caused to women and girls who are subjected to violence;

(s) Taking effective measures to prevent consent from becoming an impediment to bringing perpetrators of violence against women and girls to justice, while ensuring that criminal justice processes are gender-sensitive and that appropriate safeguards and measures to protect women facing or subjected to violence, such as restraining and expulsion orders against the perpetrators, testimonial aids and adequate and comprehensive measures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence into society, are in place;

(t) Encouraging the removal of all barriers to women's access to justice and ensuring that they all have access to effective legal assistance so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues relating to family law, and also ensuring that they have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including through the adoption of national legislation where necessary;

(u) Ensuring effective cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders, including all relevant public officials and civil society, in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of all forms of violence against women and girls;

(v) Developing or improving and disseminating specialized training programmes, including practical tools and good-practice guidelines on how to identify, prevent and deal with cases of violence against women and girls and on how to protect and assist them in an impartial, supportive and effective manner, for all stakeholders responsible for dealing with violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, including police officers, the judiciary, health workers, law enforcement personnel and civil society, and engaging statisticians, researchers and the media;

(w) Strengthening national health and social infrastructure to reinforce measures to promote and protect women's equal access to public health-care services, including for sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[25] and address the health consequences of all forms of violence against women, including by providing specialized health services such as

[25] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

supportive counselling, post-exposure prophylaxis for exposure to HIV and other urgent services;

(x) Providing immediate protection and support through the establishment of or support to integrated centres, available and accessible also in rural areas, through which shelter, legal, health, psychological, counselling and other services are available to all women facing or subjected to violence, as well as their children, and, where such centres are not feasible, promoting collaboration and coordination among agencies;

(y) Encouraging the establishment or support of national and local helplines that provide information, counselling, support and referral services to women facing or subjected to violence;

(z) Ensuring that the prison system and probation services provide appropriate rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, as a preventive tool against recidivism;

(aa) Supporting and engaging in partnerships with non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, and other relevant actors and the private sector to end violence against women and girls and to protect and support women facing or subjected to violence and witnesses;

19. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices, taking into account national priorities;

20. *Stresses* the contribution of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court to ending impunity, by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of violence against women, and urges States to consider ratifying or acceding as a matter of priority to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[26] which entered into force on 1 July 2002;

21. *Calls upon* the inter-agency Programme Appraisal Committee of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, to continue to provide guidance on the implementation of the 2010-2015 strategy for the Trust Fund and to further enhance its effectiveness as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls and to give due consideration, inter alia, to the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Trust Fund;

22. *Stresses* that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to UN-Women and other bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to prevent and eliminate

[26] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

violence against women and girls, and calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available;

23. *Also stresses* the importance of the Secretary-General's database on violence against women, expresses its appreciation to all the States that have provided the database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and supporting victims of such violence, strongly encourages all States to regularly provide updated information for the database, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

24. *Acknowledges* the work of the United Nations Statistics Division, as requested by the Statistical Commission, on the development of guidelines to support the production by Member States of statistics on violence against women;

25. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work with a view to increasing effective support for national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

26. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to present an annual report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report containing:

(a) Information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement resolution 65/187 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(b) Information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the present resolution;

28. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions including information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolutions 64/137 and 65/187 and the present resolution, including on the progress made in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide United Nations mechanism and on the progress of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

29. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its sixty-ninth session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

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Armenia, Belarus, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Costa Rica, Egypt, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Turkey: revised draft resolution

Trafficking in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes a serious threat to human dignity, human rights and development,

Recalling all international conventions that deal specifically with and address issues relevant to the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[2] and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[3] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[7] and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[8] as well as other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and the Human Rights Council on the issue,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[3] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[5] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.
[6] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[7] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.
[8] Ibid., vol. 96, No. 1342.

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Recognizing the crucial importance of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which entered into force on 25 December 2003 and provided for the first time an internationally agreed definition of the crime of trafficking in persons, aimed at the prevention of trafficking in persons, the protection of its victims and the prosecution of its perpetrators,

Reaffirming the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[9]

Reaffirming also the commitment made by world leaders at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims,

Welcoming in particular the efforts of States, United Nations bodies and agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons especially women and children, including the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010,

Welcoming also the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly, held on 3 April 2012, on the theme "Fighting human trafficking: partnership and innovation to end violence against women and girls", which united in a common endeavour Member States, the United Nations system, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and the media, to emphasize the value of a comprehensive approach and inclusive international partnerships in effectively fighting global trafficking,

Noting with appreciation the resolutions on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, adopted by the Human Rights Council, including resolution 20/1 of 5 July 2012 entitled "Trafficking in persons, especially women and children: access to effective remedies for trafficked persons and their right to an effective remedy for human rights violations",

Noting with appreciation also the steps taken, including the reports of human rights treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, and United Nations agencies and other concerned intergovernmental and governmental organizations, within their existing mandates, as well as civil society, to address the serious crime of trafficking in persons, and encourages them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

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[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Taking note of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and of the fact that part of her task is to integrate a gender- and age-specific perspective throughout the work of her mandate, inter alia, through the identification of gender- and age-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the issue of trafficking in persons,

Acknowledging the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[10] which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons, and to rescue victims as well as provide for their protection, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Seriously concerned that an increasing number of women and girls are being trafficked, including to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

Recognizing that certain efforts against trafficking in persons lack the gender and age sensitivity needed to address effectively the situation of women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, services and other forms of exploitation, thus highlighting the need to incorporate a gender- and age-sensitive approach in all anti-trafficking efforts,

Recognizing also the need to address the impact of globalization on the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

Recognizing further that poverty, unemployment, lack of socioeconomic opportunities, gender-based violence, discrimination and marginalization are some of the contributing factors that make persons vulnerable to trafficking,

Recognizing the need to reinforce efforts regarding the provision of relevant documents, such as birth registration documents, in order to lower the risk of being trafficked and to help to identify victims of trafficking in persons,

Recognizing also that, despite the progress made, challenges to preventing and combating trafficking in women and girls remain and that further efforts should be made to adopt adequate legislation and programmes to implement it and to continue improving the collection of reliable sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics that would allow proper analysis of the nature, extent and risk factors of trafficking in women and girls,

Recognizing further the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts to protect women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

Concerned about the use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of exploitation of the prostitution of others, for trafficking in women as brides, for exploiting women and children and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children,

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[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

Concerned also about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhuman conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international standards,

Recognizing that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of their gender, age, ethnicity, disability, culture and religion, as well as their origin, and that those forms of discrimination themselves may fuel trafficking in persons,

Noting that some of the demand for prostitution and forced labour is met by trafficking in persons in some parts of the world,

Acknowledging that women and girl victims of trafficking, on account of their gender, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information on or awareness and recognition of their human rights and by the stigmatization often associated with trafficking, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to accurate information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

Encouraging the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session to consider the issue of trafficking in women and girls within the framework of the priority theme for 2013, "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls",

Reaffirming the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Reaffirming also that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially women and children, demand the strong political commitment, coordinated and coherent efforts and the active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

Recognizing that policies and programmes for prevention, protection, rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration should be developed through a gender- and age-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, with concern for the security of the victims and respect for the full enjoyment of their human rights and with the involvement of all actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

Convinced of the need to protect and assist all victims of trafficking, with full respect for the human rights of the victims,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,[11] which provides information on measures by States and activities within the United Nations system to tackle trafficking in women and girls;

[11] A/67/170.

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,[12] which examines the existing international legal framework and standards applicable to States and businesses, in addition to non-binding codes of conduct and principles adopted by businesses, as part of efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking;

3. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

4. *Also urges* Member States to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] and its Optional Protocols,[7] and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[13] as well as the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), the Labour Inspection in Industry and Commerce Convention, 1947 (No. 81), the Migration for Employment Convention, 1949 (No. 97), the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment Convention, 1973 (No. 138), the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143), the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181), the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) and the Decent Work for Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of the International Labour Organization;

5. *Further urges* Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons[14] and the activities outlined therein;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation, including by sharing their knowledge, technical expertise and best practices as widely as possible;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations system to mainstream, as appropriate, the issue of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, into its broader policies and programmes aimed at addressing economic and social development, human rights, the rule of law, good governance, education, health and natural disaster and post-conflict reconstruction;

8. *Welcomes* the focus given by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to end violence against women and to

[12] A/67/261.

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

[14] Resolution 64/293, annex.

increase women's access to economic opportunities, as well as its work on building effective partnerships for the empowerment of women, which will contribute to the efforts to combat trafficking in persons;

9. *Calls upon* Governments to address, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters the trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation and in this regard to enhance preventive measures, including legislative measures, to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

10. *Also calls upon* Governments to strengthen measures aimed at empowering women and girls by, inter alia, enhancing their participation in society, including through education and skills training, and to take further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to being trafficked;

11. *Further calls upon* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the factors that increase vulnerability to being trafficked, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as other factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage, forced labour and organ removal, in order to prevent and eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, including public officials engaging in or facilitating human trafficking, through, as appropriate, criminal and/or civil measures;

12. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community and all other organizations and entities that deal with conflict, post-conflict, disaster and other emergency situations to address the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and exploitation and associated gender-based violence;

13. *Urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective gender- and age-sensitive measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

14. *Also urges* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources to strengthen preventive action, in particular education for women and men, as well as for girls and boys, on gender equality, self-respect and mutual respect, and campaigns, carried out in collaboration with civil society, to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels;

15. *Reiterates* the importance of continued coordination among, inter alia, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication in their activities in fulfilment of their mandates;

16. *Encourages* Governments to take appropriate measures to eliminate sex tourism demand, especially for children, through all possible preventive actions;

17. *Urges* Governments to develop educational and training programmes and policies and to consider, as appropriate, enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

18. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen national programmes and to engage in bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, including by forging regional initiatives or plans of action,[15] to address the problem of trafficking in persons through, inter alia, the enhancement of information-sharing, sex- and age-disaggregated data, specific data collection and other technical capacities, and mutual legal assistance, as well as the combating of corruption and laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, and to ensure, as appropriate, that such agreements and initiatives are particularly responsive to the problem of trafficking as it affects women and girls;

19. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation and abuse, sex tourism and forced labour, and to bring to justice and punish the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials involved with trafficking in persons, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

20. *Urges* Governments to take all appropriate measures to ensure that victims of trafficking are not penalized or prosecuted for acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked and that they do not suffer from revictimization as a result of actions taken by Government authorities, and encourages Governments to prevent, within their legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking in persons from being prosecuted for their illegal entry or residence;

21. *Invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, as appropriate, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, and to include data on victims of trafficking disaggregated by sex and age;

22. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the

[15] Such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, the Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific region of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (see A/C.3/55/3, annex), the initiatives of the European Union on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed most recently in the European Union plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings, adopted in December 2005, the activities of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the Organization of American States Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, and the activities of the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration in this field.

issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking; to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour; to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue; and to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime;

23. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide access to appropriate programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance in a language that they can understand and health care, including for HIV/AIDS, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

24. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and civil society organizations, to undertake or strengthen campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations, rights and responsibilities with respect to migration, as well as information on the risks of irregular migration and the ways and means used by traffickers, so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

25. *Also encourages* Governments to review and strengthen, as appropriate, the enforcement of relevant labour and other laws within their territories or jurisdictions that are aimed at, or have the effect of, requiring business enterprises, including recruitment agencies, to prevent and combat human trafficking in supply chains, and to periodically assess the adequacy of such laws and address any gaps;

26. *Invites* the business sector to consider the adoption of ethical codes of conduct to ensure decent work and to prevent any form of exploitative practices that foster trafficking;

27. *Encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement gender- and age-sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

28. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for, and to raise awareness among, law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials on the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, and in this regard calls upon Governments to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, especially by law enforcement officials, immigration officers, consular officials, social workers and other first response officials, is conducted with full respect for the human rights of those victims and with gender and age sensitivity and observes the principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination;

29. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities without fear and being available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to gender- and age-sensitive protection and, as appropriate, social, medical, financial and legal assistance, including the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered;

30. *Also invites* Governments to intensify efforts aimed at the speedy disposition of cases of trafficking in persons and, in cooperation with, inter alia, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to devise, enforce and strengthen systems and mechanisms for combating trafficking in persons;

31. *Further invites* Governments to encourage media providers, including Internet service providers, to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children, in particular girls, which could foster trafficking;

32. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism, travel and telecommunications industries, relevant recruitment agencies and mass media organizations to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking the means used by traffickers, the rights of trafficked persons and the services available to victims of trafficking;

33. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

34. *Invites* Governments, United Nations bodies, agencies and special mechanisms, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

35. *Also invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, when necessary, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals and other informational materials and provide training for law enforcement, judicial and other relevant officers, and medical and support personnel, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

36. *Encourages* Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations are provided with training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate or exploit trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and to raise the awareness of such personnel of the potential risks to victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, of being trafficked;

37. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenants on Human Rights[16] to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

[16] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

38. *Also invites* States to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report that compiles information on successful interventions and strategies, as well as the gaps, in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of trafficking in persons and provides recommendations on the strengthening of human rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive approaches within comprehensive and balanced efforts to address trafficking in persons.